

ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff B. Phil Howell

For Immediate Release
August 15th, 2025

Pennington Charged with 10 Counts of Second-Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

Warrensville, N.C. – Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 42-year-old William Michael Pennington of Warrensville, NC, for 10 counts of Felony Second-Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor.

On July 21st, 2025, Detective Curtis Elliot launched a joint investigation with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) based on cyber activity concerning child sexual abuse material. During the investigation, Michael Pennington became a suspect in this case.

On July 24th, 2025, Detective Elliott obtained search warrants for Pennington. These warrants ultimately led to Pennington's arrest. This investigation is ongoing, and more charges are expected.

William Michael Pennington, 42 years old of Warrensville, NC, was arrested and taken to the Ashe County Detention Center. He received a \$500,000 secured bond. His charges include:

- 10 Counts Felony Second Deg. Sex Exploitation of a Minor



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